

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3264

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TAGS: PFOR US XM BR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' REMARKS TO PRESS

1. UNDER BANNER, FRONT PAGE HEADLINE " WILLIAM ROGERS AFFIRMS WE ARE INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING WITH SELA", EXCELSIOR ON FEB 26 PUBLISHED ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' REMARKS TO REPORTER RAFAEL CARDONA AT THE WHITE HOUSE DURING CALL BY MEXICAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS:

Q. "WHY WAS BRAZIL AMONG ALL NATIONS CHOSEN FOR THIS CONVENTION? WAS IT BECAUSE OF ITS MODEL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?"

A. "BASICALLY, IN ORDER TO HAVE A BETTER CAPACITY FOR RESOLVING OUR COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS, WHICH ARE NUMEROUS. BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT IS CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT OUR INTENTION IS NOT TO DIVIDE LATIN AMERICA IN ANY WAY"

Q. "ALEJANDRO ORFILA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS, SAYS THAT US POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN FACES THE DILEMNA OF CHOOSING BETWEEN COOPERATION AND CONFRONTATIONS. DO YOU THINK THIS IS SO?

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A. "THERE IS NO CONFRONTATION IN ANY MANNER. WE

ARE INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING WITH LATIN AMERICA, WITH SELA, AND TO DEAL WITH ALL COUNTRIES, NOT ONLY THOSE WITH WHICH BILATERAL CONVENTIONS EXIST."

3. THE ARTICLE ENDS BY SAYING ROGERS EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS NOT THE US DESIRE TO SOW DIVISION AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD BY ALL LATIN AMERICANS.
CALDERHEAD

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NNN

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